

**Senate File 211 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 211  
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1046)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the referral of a patient for diagnostic  
2 imaging by a physical therapist.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 148A.1, Code 2023, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **148A.1 Definitions — referral — authorization.**

4 1. ~~a.~~ As used in [this chapter](#), ~~“board”~~:

5 a. “Board” means the board of physical and occupational  
6 therapy created under [chapter 147](#).

7 ~~b.~~ ~~As used in [this chapter](#), “physical therapy” is that~~  
8 “Physical therapy” means the branch of science that deals  
9 with the evaluation and treatment of human capabilities and  
10 impairments. Physical therapy uses the effective properties  
11 of physical agents including, but not limited to, mechanical  
12 devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound,  
13 and therapeutic exercises, and rehabilitative procedures to  
14 prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate a physical impairment.

15 (1) Physical therapy includes the interpretation of  
16 performances, tests, and measurements, the establishment and  
17 modification of physical therapy programs, treatment planning,  
18 consultative services, instructions to the patients, and the  
19 administration and supervision attendant to physical therapy  
20 facilities.

21 (2) Physical therapy permits the referral of a patient  
22 by a physical therapist for diagnostic imaging, including  
23 plain radiographs and magnetic resonance imaging, provided  
24 the diagnostic imaging is performed and the results are  
25 interpreted by an appropriately licensed and qualified health  
26 care professional. The physical therapist who ordered the  
27 diagnostic imaging shall report the results of the diagnostic  
28 imaging to the patient’s designated primary care provider  
29 within seven days following receipt of the results to ensure  
30 patient coordination of care, unless the patient does not  
31 have a designated primary care provider or the health care  
32 professional who performed and interpreted the diagnostic  
33 imaging previously provided the results to the primary care  
34 provider.

35 2. Physical therapy evaluation and treatment may

1 be rendered by a physical therapist with or without a  
2 referral from a physician, podiatric physician, dentist, or  
3 chiropractor, except that a hospital may require that physical  
4 therapy evaluation and treatment provided in the hospital shall  
5 be done only upon prior review by and authorization of a member  
6 of the hospital's medical staff.

7

EXPLANATION

8           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
9           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

10       This bill amends the definition of "physical therapy" to  
11 permit the referral of a patient by a physical therapist for  
12 diagnostic imaging, including plain radiographs and magnetic  
13 resonance imaging, provided the diagnostic imaging is performed  
14 and the results are interpreted by an appropriately licensed  
15 and qualified health care professional. The physical therapist  
16 who ordered the diagnostic imaging shall report the results of  
17 the diagnostic imaging to the patient's designated primary care  
18 provider within seven days following receipt of the results  
19 to ensure patient coordination of care, unless the patient  
20 does not have a designated primary care provider or the health  
21 care professional who performed and interpreted the diagnostic  
22 imaging previously provided the results to the primary care  
23 provider.